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Petroleum Geoscience

Editorial

Published Online First
https://doi.org/10.1144/petgeo2018-127

Editorial comments from the incoming Chief Editor, Autumn 2018

In early September, *Petroleum Geoscience* underwent a quiet transition with Phil Christie, Chief Editor since 2009, handing over the role to me. Following on from the immense job that Phil has been doing is quite a challenge, although made a little easier by the excellent support I know I will get from the editorial team and from the Geological Society Publishing team. It is also a great honour to be invited to take on this role from the joint owners of the journal – the Geological Society of London and the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers. Phil will continue to support the journal, while entering his retirement from Schlumberger Cambridge Research, by staying on the Co-Editor team along with Sebastian Geiger, Kim Klitgord, Bruce Levell, Jo Prigmore, Graham Yielding and our Production Editor Lucy Bell. Together with our authors, the editorial team has kindly enabled a significantly improved set of Impact Factor metrics to demonstrate the upward path the journal is following. I would also like to take this moment to recall the important building blocks set in place by our predecessors – the founding Chief Editor Andrew Hurst succeeded by John Parker and then Tony Doré.

Allow me to offer you a brief insight into my background and experience. I have always enjoyed the interface between pure and applied geology, starting with my BSc in Geology at the University of Edinburgh, and collecting the class prize in Geophysics, I went on to complete a PhD in applied geology at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. My PhD focused on post-glacial tectonics and seismicity, with pretty much the whole of the Scottish Highlands as my field area. Familiarity with geological risk and engineering led me to my first job in environmental and engineering geology (with Dames and Moore Consultants in London) and a few years later to work on geological aspects of reservoir engineering at the Institute of Petroleum Engineering at Heriot-Watt University, back in Edinburgh. It was while part of the stimulating research team at Heriot-Watt that I came to co-author a paper in the first issue of *Petroleum Geoscience* in 1995. In 1997, I moved to work at Statoil (now Equinor) R&D in Norway, all the while keeping a leg in academia with visiting positions initially at Heriot-Watt University and then later at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Over the last 10 years I have also moved from a 'mainly petroleum reservoir' focus to a 'mainly low-carbon-energy' focus – a trend that I expect to see picking up pace globally.

It is hard to anticipate how the journal will develop into the future, but following are a few of my top wishes and where I will devote my efforts:

(1) *Quality:* we need to ensure a high scientific quality of the papers we publish – papers must of course be original and be related to the field of applied earth science, but they should also ideally be ground-breaking and much sought after.

(2) *Coverage:* we will broaden our coverage into all areas of geoenergy – while continuing to attract high-impact papers on hydrocarbon exploration and production, we will encourage more papers on other uses of the subsurface, including geothermal energy and storage geoscience.

(3) *Attractiveness:* these goals of quality and coverage, should in turn help strengthen the attractiveness of the journal – in this age of dominantly electronic media, maintaining an attractive and high-impact profile will continue to be a major focus.

A key part of achieving these goals is to maintain a balance between our very successful sequence of thematic sets and a steady stream of high-quality unsolicited papers. Another crucial ingredient to success is to continue to engage the volunteer efforts of the wide family of editors and reviewers we draw on each month. I do hope that all our contributors – authors, reviewers and editors – will continue to see real benefits of the journal. To be successful our value to the Earth sciences should be self-evident, as perceived by the journal's readers.

Lastly, partly for a little amusement but also to capture the flavour of the journal, I have made a word cloud (Fig. 1) from the titles of our thematic sets over the years. Not surprisingly, petroleum exploration and reservoir modelling dominate, but 'systems' is actually our top word. Tectonics, seismic, faults, top-seals, rifts, energy and uncertainty are all prominent themes, while topics in sedimentology and stratigraphy are spread throughout the word cloud. Evidence for studies in six continents can also be found, attesting to our global reach. I do hope you will be inspired to continue reading and contributing to this journal over the coming years.

Prof. Philip S. Ringrose

Fig. 1. Word cloud from titles of thematic sets.

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